



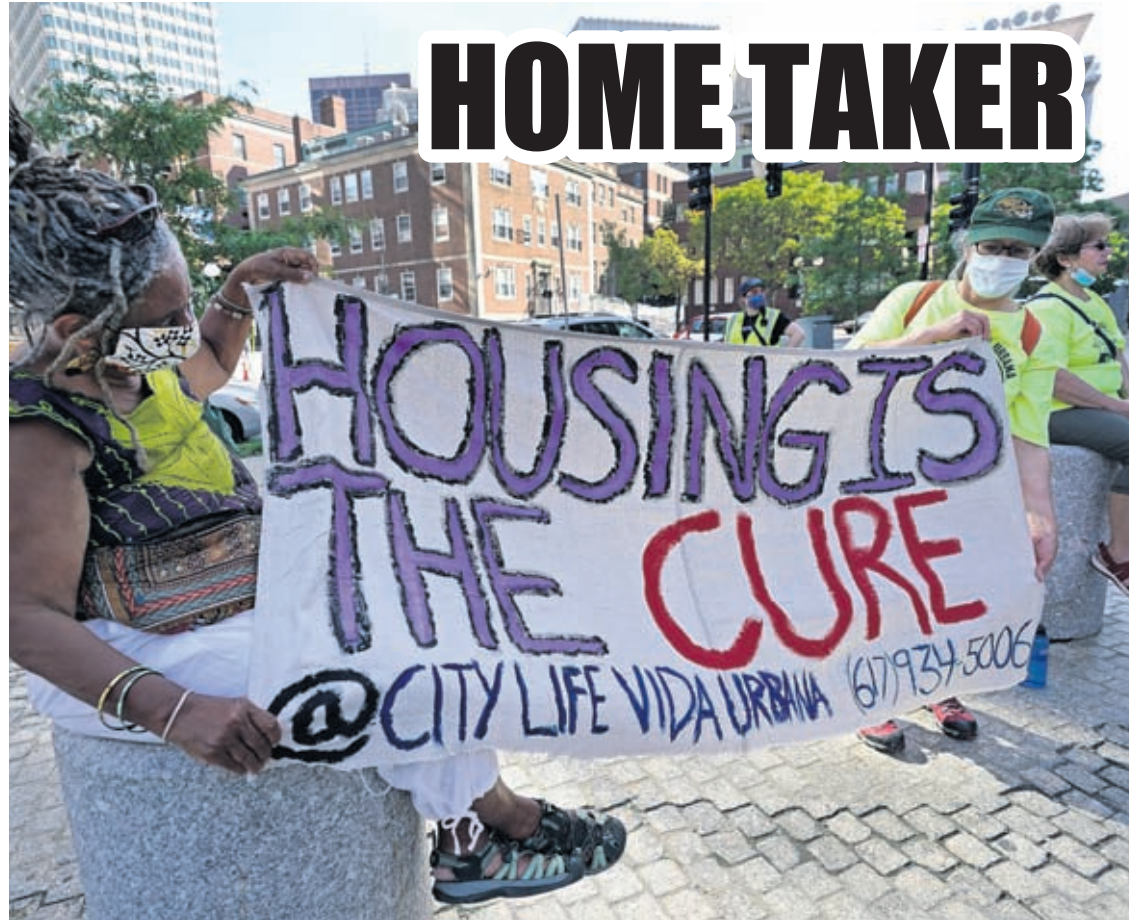
Biden to allow eviction moratorium to expire Saturday

By MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The Biden administration announced Thursday it will allow a nationwide ban on evictions to expire Saturday, arguing that its hands are tied after the Supreme Court signaled the moratorium would only be extended until the end of the month. The White House said President Joe Biden would have liked to extend the federal eviction moratorium due to spread of the highly contagious delta variant of the coronavirus. Instead, Biden called on "Congress to extend the eviction moratorium to protect such vulnerable renters and their families without

delay." The moratorium was put in place last September by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Given the recent spread of the delta variant, including among those Americans both most likely to face evictions and lacking vaccinations, President Biden would have strongly supported a decision by the CDC to further extend this eviction moratorium to protect renters at this moment of heightened vulnerability," the White House said in a statement. "Unfortunately, the Supreme Court has made clear that this option is no longer available."

Continued on Page 2



In this June 9, 2021, photo, people hold a sign during a rally in Boston protesting housing eviction. Associated Press



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Biden to allow eviction moratorium to expire Saturday

Continued from Front

The court mustered a bare 5-4 majority last month, to allow the eviction ban to continue through the end of July. One of those in the majority, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, made clear he would block any additional extensions unless there was "clear and specific congressional authorization."

By the end of March, 6.4 million American households were behind on their rent, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. As of July 5, roughly 3.6 million people in the U.S. said they faced eviction in the next two months, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in June this would be the last time the moratorium would be extended when she set the deadline for July 31. It was initially put in place to prevent further spread of COVID-19 by people put out on the streets and into shelters. Housing advocates and some lawmakers have called for the moratorium to be extended due to the increase in coronavirus cases and the fact so little rental assistance has been distributed. Congress has allocated nearly \$47 billion in assistance that is supposed to go to help tenants pay off months of back rent. But so far, only about \$3 billion of the first tranche of \$25 billion has been distributed through June by states and localities. Some states like New York have distributed almost nothing, while several have only approved a few million dollars. "The confluence of the surging



In this June 9, 2021, photo, people hold a sign during a rally in Boston protesting housing eviction.

Associated Press

delta variant with 6.5 million families behind on rent and at risk of eviction when the moratorium expires demands immediate action," said Diane Yentel, executive director of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. "The public health necessity of extended protections for renters is obvious. If federal court cases made a broad extension impossible, the Biden administration should implement all possible alternatives, including a more limited moratorium on federally backed properties." Gene Sperling, who is charged with overseeing implementation of Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package, said it was key that states and local authorities speed up the rental assistance distribution.

"The message is that there are no excuses," he told The Associated Press.

"States and cities across the country have shown these programs can work, that

they can get money out the door effectively and efficiently," he continued. "The fact that some states and cities are showing they can do this efficiently and effectively makes clear that there is no reason that every state and city shouldn't be accelerating their funds to landlords and tenants, particularly in light of the end of the CDC eviction moratorium."

The trouble getting rental assistance to those who need it has prompted the Biden administration to hold several events in the past month aimed at pressuring states and cities to increase their distribution, coax landlords to participate and make it easier for tenants to get money directly. Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta also has released an open letter to state courts around the country encouraging them to pursue measures that would keep eviction cases out of the courts. On

Wednesday, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau unveiled a tool that allows tenants to find information about rental assistance in their area. Despite these efforts, some Democratic lawmakers had demanded the administration extend the moratorium.

"This pandemic is not behind us, and our federal housing policies should reflect that stark reality. With the United States facing the most severe eviction crisis in its history, our local and state governments still need more time to distribute critical rental assistance to help keep a roof over the heads of our constituents," Democratic U.S. Reps. Cori Bush of Missouri, Jimmy Gomez of California and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts said in a joint statement.

But landlords, who have opposed the moratorium and challenged it repeatedly in court, were against any extension. They have

argued the focus should be on speeding up the distribution of rental assistance. This week, the National Apartment Association and several others this week filed a federal lawsuit asking for \$26 billion in damages due to the impact of the moratorium. "Any extension of the eviction moratorium equates to an unfunded government mandate that forces housing providers to deliver a costly service without compensation and saddles renters with insurmountable debt," association president and CEO Bob Pinnegar said, adding that the current crisis highlights the need for more affordable housing.

"Our nation faces an alarming housing affordability disaster on the horizon — it's past time for the government to enact responsible and sustainable solutions that ultimately prioritize making both renters and housing providers whole," he added. □

Judge allows Nevada tribes to join fight over lithium mine

By **SCOTT SONNER**

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A judge has cleared the way for two tribes to join a legal battle over plans to build a mine in Nevada at the largest known U.S. deposit of lithium and seek a temporary ban on digging for an archaeological survey that they say would desecrate sacred tribal lands near the Oregon line.

U.S. District Judge Miranda Du on Wednesday allowed the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and Atsa Koodakuh Wyh Nuwu/People of Red Mountain to intervene in a lawsuit against Lithium Nevada Corp.

The tribes say their ancestors were massacred in the late 1800s at the proposed Thacker Pass mine site.

They say the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's approval of the project in December during the final weeks of the Trump administration violates the National Historic Preservation Act because they haven't been consulted about potential efforts to mitigate damage to their sacred lands.

If the land agency and "Lithium Nevada prevail, a massive open pit mine will be constructed on a massacre site, historic properties and hunting and gathering grounds important to the region's tribes," they



The Montana Mountains loom over Thacker Pass in northern Nevada, July 14, 2021.

Associated Press

wrote in court filings last week on behalf of 1,157 members of the colony including Shoshone, Paiute and Washoe tribes.

It comes after the judge rejected a request last week from four conservation groups that sought to block the digging of sample trenches based on claims it would destroy critical habitat for the sage grouse, an imperiled ground-dwelling bird. But Du said during a July 21 hearing on that motion that if she decided to allow the tribes to intervene, her initial impression was they had a better chance of persuading her to temporarily halt activity at the mine site.

"The argument about irreparable harm is more per-

suasive — the violation of the National Historic Preservation Act itself," she said. A Justice Department lawyer representing the Bureau of Land Management said last week that the agency is consulting with the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes about plans on how to treat historic properties.

The Paiutes call Thacker Pass "Pee hee mu'huh," which means "rotten moon."

Tribal leaders with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony describe in oral histories how Paiute hunters who had been away returned to find the "elders, women, and children murdered, unburied and rotting with their intestines spread across

the sagebrush in this pass shaped like a crescent moon," lawyers for the tribe said in a letter attached to their court filings.

Will Falk, an attorney for the tribes, said the Biden administration "and first-ever Native Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland have promised that federal agencies will engage in meaningful and robust government-to-government consultation with the tribes."

"They are not currently honoring that promise to tribes who consider Pee hee mu'huh sacred," he said.

The Bureau of Land Management, which is overseen by the Interior Department, said it didn't oppose allowing the colony to intervene, but lawyers for Lith-

ium Nevada said they do. The company said a review has included "substantial consultation" with local tribes that never raised similar concerns, while it spent \$10 million on the permitting process in an effort to move to the next stage of development and production.

The land agency "consulted with the authorized representatives of the federal recognized tribes and therefore, there is no legal basis to grant intervention based on individuals of a tribe now asserting different interests through the RS colony or The People for the first time," the company's lawyers said.

They added that Atsa Koodakuh Wyh Nuwu/People of Red Mountain isn't a tribe defined under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Du ruled Wednesday that the tribes have shown "a significantly protectable interest that would be impaired were they not allowed to intervene."

"If the tribes are right, and federal defendants did not properly consult with them under the NHPA, they have a significantly protectable interest in ensuring they are properly consulted before any of their sacred sites are dug up and a lithium mine is built on land they consider sacred," she said. □

Appeals court: Arbitration won't shield Trump from lawsuit

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump and his three eldest children can't force a lawsuit into arbitration that was brought by people who felt cheated by a business he promoted, an appeals court ruled Wednesday.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a written decision pertaining to a 2018 lawsuit in Manhattan federal court brought by salespeople who lost money in a marketing company that Trump endorsed in speeches and on "The Ce-

lebrity Apprentice." The effort to force arbitration had delayed the lawsuit from proceeding.

The lawsuit alleged Trump and family members secretly received millions of dollars between 2005 and 2015 in exchange for reassuring potential salespeople for telephone company ACN Opportunity LLC there was little risk if they started selling its phone service.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs argued that the Trumps misled them to believe they were endorsing the company based on an independent assessment of the

company rather than in return for large payments.

The 2nd Circuit noted that investigations by regulatory agencies have demonstrated that ACN's business was high-risk and that investors had minimal chance of commercial success.

The appeals court, citing the lawsuit's claims, said statements by the Trumps that they had conducted extensive due diligence and research concerning the business opportunity and had inside information and personal experience with ACN were untrue.

"The defendants had, in



This Monday Jan. 4, 2021 file photo shows President Donald Trump, center, accompanied by his daughter Ivanka Trump, as he leaves the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

fact, conducted no such due diligence. They were instead endorsing ACN's business opportunity because they were being paid millions of dollars to do so — a fact that they deliberately failed to disclose,"

the appeals court said the lawsuit alleged.

In a statement, ACN said it has been in business for 28 years and operates in 27 countries, earning an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau. □

Ex-Cardinal McCarrick charged with sexually assaulting teen

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, who was defrocked after a Vatican investigation confirmed he had sexually molested adults as well as children, has been charged with sexually assaulting a teenage boy during a wedding reception in Massachusetts in 1974, court records show. McCarrick is the first cardinal in the U.S. to ever be criminally charged with a sexual crime against a minor, according to Mitchell Garabedian, a well-known lawyer for church sexual abuse victims who is representing the man alleging the abuse by McCarrick.

"It takes an enormous amount of courage for a sexual abuse victim to report having been sexually abused to investigators and proceed through the criminal process," Garabedian said in an email. "Let the facts be presented, the law applied, and a fair verdict rendered."

McCarrick faces three counts of indecent assault and battery on a person over 14, according to documents filed in the Dedham District Court on Wednesday.

Barry Coburn, an attorney for McCarrick, told The Associated Press that they "look forward to addressing the case in the courtroom," and declined further comment. McCarrick, who now lives in Missouri, has been ordered to appear in Massachusetts for his arraignment on Aug. 26. The charges against McCarrick were first reported by The Boston Globe on Thursday.

The man said the abuse started when he was a young boy, according to the court records. The man told authorities during an interview in January that McCarrick was close to his family and would perform wedding masses, baptisms and funerals for them.

The man said that during his brother's wedding reception at Wellesley College in June 1974 — when he was 16 — McCarrick told



In this May 16, 2006 file photo former Washington Archbishop, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick pauses during a press conference in Washington.

him that his father wanted him to have a talk with McCarrick because the boy was "being mischievous at home and not attending church."

The man said that the two of them went for a walk around campus and McCarrick groped him before they went back to the party. The man said McCarrick also sexually assaulted him in a "coat room type closet" after they returned to the reception, authorities wrote in the documents.

Before leaving the room, McCarrick told him to "say three Our Fathers and a

Hail Mary or it was one Our Father and three Hail Marys, so God can redeem you of your sins," according to the report.

The man also described other instances of sexual abuse by McCarrick over the years, including when the man was an adult, the report said.

Authorities began investigating McCarrick after Garabedian sent a letter alleging the abuse to the district attorney's office, according to the court records.

McCarrick, 91, was defrocked by Pope Francis in

2019 after a Vatican investigation confirmed decades of rumors that he was a sexual predator.

The case created a credibility crisis for the church since the Vatican had reports from authoritative cardinals dating to 1999 that McCarrick's behavior was problematic, yet he became an influential cardinal, kingmaker and emissary of the Holy See's "soft diplomacy."

It led to a two-year investigation that found that bishops, cardinals and popes downplayed or dismissed multiple reports of sexual

misconduct. An internal investigation report released last year put the lion's share of blame on Pope John Paul II, who appointed McCarrick archbishop of Washington, D.C., despite having commissioned an inquiry that confirmed he slept with seminarians.

Anne Barrett Doyle, co-founder of the online research database BishopAccountability.org, said that "for McCarrick, today's reckoning is long overdue." "We hope that these charges lead to justice," she said in an emailed statement.

Jeff Anderson, an attorney who has represented others who say they were victimized by McCarrick, said in a statement that the defrocked cardinal's "history of prolific sex crimes has been ignored by the highest-ranking Catholic officials for decades."

"For too long Catholic institutions have been self-policing while making pledges and promises without action. McCarrick should be behind bars for his crimes," Anderson said.

Of the thousands of Catholic clergymen implicated in sexual abuse in recent decades, McCarrick was distinctive in having reached the highest circles of church leadership — even as awareness of his suspect behavior spread steadily through the hierarchy. □

Associated Press

Monsanto told to pay teachers \$185M over chemical exposure



This Monday, May 23, 2016, file photo, shows the Bayer AG corporate logo displayed on a building of the German drug and chemicals company in Berlin.

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Three schoolteachers in Washington state who sued chemical company Monsanto over exposure to materials in fluorescent lights have been awarded \$185 million.

The law firm that represent-

ed the teachers, Friedman Rubin, said a jury returned the verdict Tuesday in King County Superior Court. The teachers, who worked at the Sky Valley Education Center in Monroe, Washington, said they suffered brain damage from exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, in the fluorescent lighting at the school. "This is a big step in holding Monsanto accountable," the teachers' attorney, Rick Friedman, said in a statement.

Bayer, which bought Monsanto in 2018, said the company disagreed with the verdict and may appeal. "The undisputed

evidence in this case does not support the conclusions that plaintiffs were exposed to unsafe levels of PCBs at the Sky Valley Education Center (SVEC) or that any exposure could have possibly caused their claimed injuries," Bayer spokesperson Susan Skiles Luke said in a statement. The company said the light ballasts that were the focus of the lawsuit were obsolete.

"These are historic claims that relate to products Monsanto has not produced in more than 40 years," Luke said. This was the first of 22 trials involving teachers, parents

and students who spent time at the Sky Valley Education Center.

A 2019 Associated Press investigation found that millions of fluorescent light ballasts containing PCBs probably remain in schools and day care centers across the U.S. four decades after the chemicals were banned over concerns that they could cause cancer and other illnesses.

Many older buildings also have caulk, ceiling tiles, floor adhesives and paint made with PCBs, which sometimes have been found at levels far higher than allowed by law. □

Top US diplomat talks relocation of Afghan allies in Kuwait

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United States is negotiating with Kuwait and other countries whether they can host Afghans who supported the American war effort and could face Taliban revenge attacks if they stay in Afghanistan, America's top diplomat said Thursday. During a visit to tiny, oil-rich Kuwait, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken did not announce any deal or disclose critical details about the process, such as who would be eligible for relocation or where they would be housed.

As American troops complete their withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Biden administration has come under heavy pressure to quickly evacuate Afghan interpreters, drivers and other workers who helped U.S. forces during the two-decade war and now find themselves at risk of retribution by the Taliban.

"The United States is committed to helping those who helped us during our time in Afghanistan over the last 20 years," Blinken said at a joint press confer-



Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken hold a joint news conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kuwait City, Kuwait, Thursday, July 29, 2021.

ence with his Kuwaiti counterpart. "We're actively engaged in that process and notably in relocation planning for those brave Afghans and their families." The evacuation planning, which could affect tens of thousands of Afghans, comes as the Taliban gain more ground throughout Afghanistan, seizing swaths of the countryside and fueling fears of a violent future.

Civilian casualties surged in the first half of the year, according to a United Nations report. Afghan allies have complained of a bureaucratic nightmare as they try to obtain the special immigrant visas offered to foreign nationals deemed to be in need of protection because of their cooperation with the U.S. government. There are more than 18,000 visa applications

pending, some for as long as nearly three years.

On Iran, Blinken dismissed criticism from Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that America's "stubborn" stance was to blame for stalled negotiations over Tehran's now-tattered nuclear deal with world powers. Khamenei's apparent call for a more adversarial approach to the West on Wednesday

came as his hard-line protégé, President-elect Ebrahim Raisi, is set next week to become head of the country's civilian government. Hopes for a quick revival of the accord, which granted Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, have faded further since the last round of indirect talks between Iran and the U.S. in Vienna broke last month.

"I think we have clearly demonstrated our good faith and desire to return to mutual compliance with the nuclear agreement," Blinken said. "This process cannot go on indefinitely." He added: "The ball remains in Iran's court."

Iran has rejected that assertion, insisting that because the U.S., under former President Donald Trump, scrapped the landmark 2015 deal, it should move first to lift its crippling sanctions. Kuwait's foreign minister, standing beside Blinken, appeared to reject any suggestion it would be next to join the U.S.-brokered normalization agreements with Israel as its Gulf Arab neighbors, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, did last year. □

Associated Press

Inquiry into Malta journalist's slaying blames state

By K. SCHEMBRI ORLAND

Associated Press

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — An independent inquiry into the murder of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia released on Thursday has found that the Maltese state "has to bear responsibility" for the assassination because of the culture of impunity emanating from the highest levels of government. Caruana Galizia's family had sought the inquiry into the Oct. 16, 2017 car bombing near the family home in Malta. The murder in the small EU country sent shockwaves felt not just in Malta, but throughout Europe. The inquiry found that there was no evidence that the state played a di-

rect role in the assassination, but said the state "has to bear responsibility ... by creating an atmosphere of impunity, generated from the highest levels in the heart of the administration of (the prime minister's office) and, like an octopus, spread to other entities, like regulatory authorities and the police, leading to a collapse of the rule of law." The report said the state and its entities failed to recognize the real risk to Caruana Galizia's life, given the threats she had lived under, and also failed to take measures to avoid the risk, the report found. The Caruana Galizia family said in a statement that the inquiry's findings confirm the family's conviction

"that her assassination was a direct result of the collapse of the rule of law and the impunity that the state provided to the corrupt network she was reporting on. Yorgen Fenech, a prominent businessman who had ties with some government officials, is alleged by prosecutors to have been the mastermind of the killing. He has pleaded not guilty to charges of alleged complicity in the killing and allegedly organizing and financing the bombing.

In addition, three men have been charged with carrying out the attack, two with providing explosives and another with being the middleman. Trials are under way. One of



In this Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018 file photo, flowers and a candle lie in front of a portrait of slain investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia during a vigil outside the law courts in Valletta, Malta.

Associated Press

those charged with carrying out the attack has admitted his role, as has the middleman.

Joseph Muscat, Malta's former prime minister, stepped down in late 2019 following protests that pressed for the truth about the assassination of

the investigative journalist, whose reports targeted Muscat's administration but also the opposition. In a statement on Facebook, Muscat sought to distance his administration from "the state of impunity" mentioned in the report. □

China flooding brought fear, then washed away livelihoods

By **DAKE KANG**

Associated Press

XINXIANG, China (AP) —

The night the rains came, all Yu Ruiping could do was huddle in her market stall. The electricity went out. Her phone went dead. And the water just kept rising. When the skies cleared, the market was surrounded by chest-high water — trapping Yu and her husband for two days with nothing to eat but a few packages of instant noodles.

"It was the most water I'd ever seen," Yu said, standing in her family warehouse in a neighborhood of Xinx-
iang, a city of six million people in the heart of central China's Henan province. The torrent of rain last week burst dams and collapsed bridges, immersing large swaths of Henan in water. In the provincial capital of Zhengzhou, a year's worth of rain fell in just three days. Authorities announced a sharp rise in the death toll Thursday to 99 people. After drenching Zhengzhou, where people drowned in subway trains and their cars, the clouds headed north to Xinx-
iang. On July 21, the heaviest rains pounded the city overnight, turning roads into rivers and carving the city into islands.

Between their spoiled pickled vegetables and their



**A woman carries a child in her arms as she walks on a curb above floodwaters in Xinx-
iang in central China's Henan Province, Monday, July 26, 2021.**

damaged electric wagon, Yu estimates their losses could run into the tens of thousands of dollars, a princely sum in a city where the average annual income is about \$8,000. Authorities estimate overall economic losses at nearly 90 billion yuan (\$14 billion), a devastating blow to the province's heavily agrar-
ian economy. "If the water at the market had been drained the next day after the rain, our losses would not have been this huge. It's been a week, and the wa-
ter has not been pumped

out," said Yu, as she leaned her elbow on cases of pickled mustard greens she and her husband managed to save. Her husband, Lu Jinlin, recalled his mother recounting a similar downpour in 1963. Though the rains weren't as bad, their homes made of earth were easily swept away by the waters, he said. There were no rescue teams back then. This time, the price paid in lives lost was lower because they live now in squat and sturdy concrete homes.

No deaths have been con-

firmed in Xinx-
iang so far, but many surrounding vil-
lages remain underwater. Recovery work continues. Pumps chug out dirt-colored floodwater, while bulldozers transport people down flooded roads, ferrying them over the waters in the maws of their shovels. Though rescue efforts have won widespread praise, there are lingering ques-
tions about the govern-
ment's storm preparedness and why many people were caught off-guard. Authorities have carefully controlled reporting on the

floods. Censors swiftly de-
leted some critical reports from Chinese media, while a vicious social-media campaign targeted for-
eign journalists.

One shopkeeper declined to be interviewed with a nervous chuckle. "I don't dare," he said.

The waters in the Yubei Ag-
ricultural and Aquatic Prod-
ucts World market, where Yu has her stall, are still knee-deep. Shopkeepers fortunate enough to have stalls elevated above the waters washed them out and wiped down their fridges and tables. Those less fortunate salvaged what they could of their ru-
ined goods.

One vendor wrapped a bundle of cups in a white plastic bag in the back of a half-submerged pickup truck. A young man then hoisted it over to a nearby cart carrying what remains of her merchandise. Ciga-
rette butts and chunks of plastic foam swirled around her legs in murky water that reeked of rotting fish.

She estimated her losses at tens of thousands dollars — the second time she's facing ruin from a flood, as heavy rains in 2016 also spoiled her goods.

"I've had terrible luck, let me tell you," she said. "All our family fortune is soaked in water." □

Associated Press

Southeast Europe heat wave set to be among worst in decades

By **DEREK GATOPOULOS**

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

A heat wave scorched southeast Europe on Thurs-
day, intensifying wildfires and sending residents flocking to the coast, pub-
lic fountains and air-con-
ditioned locations to find some relief.

Temperatures rose above 40 C (104 F) in parts of Greece and across much of the region. Weather ex-
perts in Athens said they expected the heat wave to extend into next week, making it one of the most severe recorded in the country since the mid-
1980s.

At least three people were killed in southern Turkey and dozens of people were hospitalized as the

intense summer heat and strong winds fanned two separate forest fires.

Wildfires in Greece threat-



A woman takes a shower at a beach of Lagonissi village, a few miles southwest of Athens, on Thursday, July 29, 2021.

Associated Press

ened homes for a third suc-
cessive day, with a blaze reported Thursday outside the western city of Patras. "The ongoing heat wave is a dangerous weather phenomenon, as it will last until the end of next week with a small temperature range between maximum and minimum levels," said Theodoris Kolydas, director of Greece's National Me-
teorological Service. Cooling shelters were set up in the Greek capital, but access to the air-con-
ditioned public spaces was limited by pandemic restrictions.

Authorities in Serbia, Bul-
garia, Bosnia and Herze-

govina and other affected countries advised people to avoid exposure to direct sunlight in midday hours.

In North Macedonia, preg-
nant women and people over age 60 were excused from work until the end of the week, while construc-
tion companies were or-
dered to stop work from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Climate experts argue that extreme weather like the recent deadly floods in Germany and heat waves in Canada and the west-
ern United States are likely to become more frequent as rising global tempera-
tures create greater insta-
bility. □

Israel to offer 3rd COVID booster shot to older citizens

By ILAN BEN ZION

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister on Thursday announced that the country would offer a coronavirus booster to people over 60 who have already been vaccinated.

The announcement by Naftali Bennett makes Israel, which launched one of the world's most successful vaccination drives earlier this year, the first country to offer a third dose of a Western vaccine to its citizens on a wide scale.

"I'm announcing this evening the beginning of the campaign to receive the booster vaccine, the third vaccine," Bennett said in a nationally televised address. "Reality proves the vaccines are safe. Reality also proves the vaccines protect against severe morbidity and death. And like the flu vaccine that needs to be renewed from time to time, it is the same in this case."

The decision comes at a time of rising infections and signs that the vaccine's efficacy dwindles over time. Anyone over 60 who was vaccinated more than five months ago will be eligible. Bennett said the country's new president, Isaac Herzog, would be the first to get the booster on Friday. It



In this Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, file photo, a woman receives a coronavirus vaccine from medical staff at a COVID-19 vaccination center in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Associated Press

will be offered to the general public on Sunday.

Bennett, who is 49, said his first call after the news conference would be to his mother to encourage her to get her booster shot.

Neither the U.S. nor the EU have approved coronavirus booster shots. It's not yet proven if a third dose helps and, if so, who needs one and when.

But Bennett said that a team of expert advisers had agreed overwhelmingly, by a 56-1 margin, that it made sense to launch

the booster campaign. He said the recommendation was made after "considerable research and analysis" and that its information would be shared around the world. Preliminary studies in Israel have indicated the vaccine's protection against serious illness dropped among those vaccinated in January.

"The findings show that there is a decline in the body's immunity over time, and the purpose of the booster is to re-strengthen it, thus significantly reduc-

ing the chances of infection and serious illness," Bennett said.

Israel has used the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine on its population. Previously, boosters were used in some countries with the Chinese and Russian vaccines.

Early this year, Israel carried out one of the world's most aggressive and successful vaccination campaigns, reaching a deal with Pfizer to purchase enough vaccines for its population in exchange for sharing its data with the drug maker.

Over 57% of the country's 9.3 million citizens have received two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, and over 80% of the population over 40 is vaccinated. The vaccination program allowed Israel to reopen its economy ahead of other countries. But Israel has seen a spike in cases of the new delta variant, even among people who are vaccinated. Bennett urged unvaccinated Israelis, especially younger people who have been hesitant, to get vaccinated immediately.

Earlier this month, Israel started giving individuals with weakened immune systems a third shot to increase their resilience against COVID-19.

Pfizer said Wednesday that the effectiveness of the vaccine drops slightly six months after the second dose. Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech have said they plan to seek authorization for boosters in August.

The agency's officials have appealed for wealthier countries to share vaccines with poorer nations that have yet to immunize their people, instead of using them as boosters. Israel itself has come under criticism for not sharing more of its vaccines with the Palestinians. □

Mexico says officials spent \$61 million on Pegasus spyware

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's top security official said Wednesday that two previous administrations spent \$61 million to buy Pegasus spyware that has

been implicated in government surveillance of opponents and journalists around the world.

Public Safety Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez said

records had been found of 31 contracts signed during the administrations of President Felipe Calderón in 2006-2012 and President Enrique Peña Nieto in 2012-18. Some contracts may have been disguised as purchases of other equipment.

The government said many of the contracts with the Israeli spyware firm NSO Group were signed with front companies, which are often used in Mexico to facilitate kickbacks or avoid taxes.

Last week, the government's top anti-money laundering investigator said officials from the two previous administrations had spent about \$300 mil-

lion in government money to purchase spyware. But that figure may reflect all spyware and surveillance purchases, or may include yet-unidentified contracts. Santiago Nieto, the head of Mexico's Financial Intelligence Unit, said the bills for programs like the Pegasus spyware appear to have included excess payments that may have been channeled back to government officials as kickbacks.

Nieto said the amounts paid, and the way they were paid, suggested government corruption in an already questionable telephone tapping program that targeted journalists, activists and opposition

figures, who at the time included now President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and his inner circle.

"This implies or at least presumes the existence of acts of corruption, by selling (the spyware) at inflated prices to the government between the years 2012 and 2018," Nieto said. López Obrador took office on Dec. 1, 2018, and vowed never to use spyware. Nieto said no transactions had been detected in the current administration.

Mexico had the largest list about 700 phone numbers among the thousands reportedly selected by NSO clients for potential surveillance. □



In this June 19, 2017, file photo, a person types on a laptop keyboard in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

Tips for an unforgettable vacation in Aruba!

ORANJESTAD — We know how stressful preparing for a trip can be, that's why we've put together a list of tips for you to take away some of that stress. We want to help make your vacation unforgettable!

Clothes

The weather in Aruba can be pretty hot, so take clothes with you that are not too warm. Keep in mind that there is always a steady breeze in Aruba, making the warm weather bearable. Of course, don't forget your swimwear. At night, the temperature more or less stays the same. For cooler evenings you might want to pack a light sweater, just in case. There is no need to pack your rain jacket. Rain generally passes by relatively quickly; the sun will soon make its appearance again!

Language

Even though the main language in Aruba is Papiamentu, most people can speak and understand Dutch and English too. Many people also speak

and understand Spanish.

Money

The currency in Aruba is the florin (Awg. or Afl.), but US dollars are accepted everywhere. You can withdraw both florins and US dollars from several ATMs (not all) if you want to keep using US dollars. Otherwise you need to go to the bank or casino to exchange your money. Most places, like shops and hotels, grant a rate of exchange ranging from Awg. 1.75 to Awg. 1.80 per US dollar.

Getting around

There are several ways to get around on the island. The most convenient way is by car, but you can find other ways to get from point A to point B.

- Taxi: A great way to get around is to call a taxi. In Aruba, it's not usual to hail a cab off the street, you will find a taxi parked at most resorts or tourist area. There are lots of different cabs you can call, and they are all familiar with the places

you want to go to. The prices are fixed prices regulated by the government of Aruba. You pay for the cab, not the amount of people.

- Car rental: Renting a car is also a safe and easy way to get around on the island. There are dozens of car rentals with good quality cars.
- Bike rental: Renting a bike is a bit more dangerous. Since there are no biking lanes, it is harder to get around. You have to ride on the same road as cars do, which can be tricky sometimes.

Rules of the Road

- Drive on the right side of the road.
- There is a predominance of roundabouts instead of traffic lights at major intersections, which is a change that has been implemented in Aruba in recent years.
- Right-hand turns: Right-hand turns are always forbidden on red lights (unlike in the U.S.).



- Speed Limits: Note that speed limits in Aruba are posted at kilometers per hour.
- Overtaking: Many streets in Aruba are one-way streets, so overtaking should be done with extreme caution.
- Entering vehicles must yield to vehicles that are already in the roundabout. Also, at all intersections, traffic coming from the right has the right of way. The amber light used at traffic lights is to signal caution, as the traffic light is to turn from green to red.
- Seat Belts: Seatbelts must be worn at all times in Aruba.
- Cell Phones: Talking on the phone is illegal while driving in Aruba, and can lead to hefty fines and court action, and even imprisonment. If you want to talk on the phone, you must set your device to hands-free mode.
- Alcohol Use: The maximum permitted blood alcohol level is 50 mg per 100 ml of blood, which means that one drink will take you over the legal limit. So, please call a taxi if you've been drinking.
- Gas/fuel stations: The price of gas is regulated by the government of Aruba and is the same everywhere on the island. You will also be pumping gas in liters, and 1 gallon equals 3.78 liters. Current gas prices are: Gasoline unleaded premium: 221.6 cents p / ltr. Diesel LS: 175.8 cents p / ltr.

looking to get a nice tan, still use sunscreen. You can use regular sunscreen, or you can use the water resistant aloe vera sunscreen. The aloe vera in sunscreen is locally grown in Aruba. You can find aloe vera everywhere!

Tipping

In Aruba it's not mandatory to tip, but it's your choice if you do so. However, some restaurants and bars add service charge to your bill. Usually, this adds up to about 10 to 15 percent on food and beverages. If you really like the service, you can still tip, of course!

Chargers

You also want to make sure you can charge your phone, camera or laptop. If you're from the USA or Canada, you don't have to worry. Aruba adopted the voltage standard of 110V, the same as in the USA and Canada. However, if you're not from the USA or Canada, you might want to check if your devices need 220V or 110V, then you may need a converter. You can buy these in your home country or in Aruba at hardware stores or supermarkets.

No need to buy water
The tap water in Aruba is of high quality and perfectly safe to drink.

Emergencies

Let's hope it's not necessary, but it's good to know. In case of an emergency, you can call 911 for an ambulance or the fire department and for the police, you can call 100.

Keep in mind to wash your hands frequently, wear your face mask at all times, avoid crowded areas, practice social distance and adhere to all rules and protocols. Have a fun and unforgettable vacation! ☐

Protect your skin

When in Aruba, don't forget to protect your skin with sunscreen every couple of hours, especially after swimming. If you're

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Chef's Garden, culinary magic by
European top chef in a romantic garden

PALM BEACH —A true once-in-a-lifetime experience is coming up. The stage: an Aruban cunucu house creating a magical ambiance. The play: The Chef's Garden; a 6-course culinary voyage and French-Asian gastronomic ecstasy by Dutch top chef Martijn Liebrechts on Wednesdays. You will leave this culinary Garden of Eden in an enchanted state creating a memory that will last a lifetime. Be sure to reserve this opportunity before others do. This production is presented to you by Papillon Restaurant.

Sometimes combining the best of the best is a matter of all things falling into place. Every Wednesday from 7pm you are welcomed to enter a world where food is a passion. Papillon Restaurant presents their guest chef Liebrechts- who will be on the island for a limited time period - and with The Chef's Garden menu being a fresh concept on the island, we're sure you will fall completely in love with this.

A bit about Martijn

Liebrechts is the perfect example of when career and passion come together. He earned his spurs at Amber, one of the best French fine dining restaurants Hong Kong has to offer, with 2 Michelin-stars and ranked as the 24th best restaurant in the world. Amber has been the place where he got inspired by the use of Asian ingredients prepared in a classical French way which is still the base of his nowadays cooking style. Moving back to Amsterdam, The Netherlands, he joined the team of former Bib Gourmand restaurant "Wilde Zwijnen", which was awarded the title "The New Dutch Cuisine" by the New York Times. He has been there and done it all around the world.

The menu is carefully done with local products, fresh and perfectly matched with a selection of wines by local sommeliers. Diet options are available; please inform them when you make your reservation.



The Secret Garden & Papillon

This is an in-home dining experience where you will feel you are part of an exclusive setting. Private culinary events are the owner's specialty and their lush, tropical garden is also inviting for you to relax and indulge in hours of authentic culinary delights, a heaven to foodies. For more than a decade, Papillon restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. They know how to thrill and in collaboration with The Secret Garden we can only expect phenomenal.

For reservations:

Call or WhatsApp: +297 699 5400

Email: info@papillonaruba.com

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Tuscany Residence Aruba: Aruba's Luxury Residential Resort with unique Water Villas

NOORD — Within walking distance of the finest white beaches and the clear blue ocean, Tuscany Residence Aruba is founded in one of the best and most popular neighborhoods of Aruba, close to the shopping and nightlife of Palm Beach. Tuscany Residence Aruba brings luxury living to a new level and they are very unique in their offerings with the Daimari Water Villas.

Around 180 exclusive properties will be built in all different sizes and prices, suitable for everyone's wishes and among them are 18 luxury Water Villas, all with a private terrace and direct access to the pool. The Daimari Water Villas include 2 and 3 bedrooms with wardrobes, 2 and 3.5 bathrooms, are fully furnished with a fully equipped German kitchen, fully air-conditioned and with wide aluminum sliding door to the covered pool terraces. Balcony and covered terraces are offered on the 2 floors unit and a private parking in front of the unit or your own garage is all yours. 50% of these amazing houses is already sold! There are still 9 residences available, including 2 with a one car garage.

Tuscany Residences now offer a special pre-construction discount, whereby your advantage increases to 9.7%. Pre-construction prices starting at US\$ 450,775 Turn-Key!

Dutch design

This luxury residential resort with various types of homes has many amenities such as swimming pools, restaurant, bar, offices, meeting rooms, gym, wellness and more. The combination of the beautiful Dutch modern international architecture and the Aruban palm trees creates a luxurious Aruban feeling and relaxed atmosphere in this resort. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the perfect choice for couples and families. Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba adds, "We differ from traditional building, our design distinguishes itself." At 8 minutes' walk from Palm Beach, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is a dream comes true.



We take care of it all

De Groot adds, "Our project is in continuous construction which builds confidence. He continues saying that maintenance, property management, rental program and safety are taken care of. "You can log in from abroad and manage your property for rental or view your administration." The great thing about Tuscany is that it offers everything equal to a resort but you do not need to wait for an elevator to bring you up, worry about parking space or noisy neighbors. "We have got space and different size offerings making this more a community feel rather than a packed condo building." He also emphasizes that the location is one of the best on Aruba as it is quiet and close to Palm Beach.

Reasons to buy

Reasons to consider Aruba property ownership, at Tuscany Residence Aruba

- Excellent price-quality ratio
- Beautiful designs & Quality construction
- Residential Park with all amenities
- Property land on top-location
- Varies properties in different price range
- Onsite Maintenance Team, Property Management & Rental Program

Are you looking for a safe, quiet, residential area where you will meet a mix of local and foreign owners? Do you feel for a warm community with amenities like wellness, gym, restaurants, pools and this all within a structure where the residence takes care of your property management while you are not here? Can the highest European quality and solid working structure take away your preoccupations while you are home? Than meet us, we are here to convince you with quality!

For an impression of Daimari Water Villas have a look at the website: <https://www.tuscany-residencearuba.com/en/news>. For more information please contact Bas de Groot by phone +297-7332424 or email bas@tuscanyresidencearuba.com.

Tuscany Residence Aruba

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 (+297) 733 2424



IPO market nears peak as valuations hit 20-year high

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE**
 AP Business Writer

Low interest rates and hefty returns have driven record demand for IPOs, but with valuations for newly public companies now at levels last seen during the dot-com bubble, some analysts are raising concerns that the boom may be nearing an end.

Last quarter was the U.S.'s biggest for initial public offerings in over two decades, with 115 companies raising proceeds of \$40.7 billion, according to Renaissance Capital. IPOs also set a record in the first quarter. In 2020, companies raised \$61.9 billion, the most since 2000, according to a measure by Jay Ritter, a finance professor at the University of Florida.

This demand has driven valuations to levels not seen since the dot-com bubble two decades ago. In 2020, investors valued IPOs at a median of 38 times the company's revenue, close to the nearly 41x valuation seen in 2000, according to Ritter. Those valuations have begun to drop in 2021, but remain historically high. Enthusiasm from companies and investors drove



PowerSchool CEO Hardeep Gulati, second from right, rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell, celebrating his company's IPO, Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

Associated Press

the number and overall proceeds higher in the first half of the year, but returns are slipping and that could further temper pricing for IPOs. The IPO market took off partly because historically low interest rates made stocks an attractive investment, even as the pandemic sapped the broader economy.

Those low rates can help boost returns for compa-

nies going public.

Low interest rates are especially beneficial for technology stocks whose rich valuations are based on high expectations for their future earnings.

Technology companies were dominant in the second quarter, with China-based ride-hailing company Didi raising more than \$4.4 billion. Mobile gaming company AppLovin raised

\$2 billion when it went public in April. The tech sector accounted for more than half of the quarter's billion-dollar IPOs.

The average return for investors on IPOs reached 33.4% and 72.8% during the third and fourth quarters of 2020, respectively. That stimulated demand from investors and interest from companies to go public during the first half of 2021.

"Returns are the fuel that drive the IPO issuance engine," said Kathleen Smith, founding principal at Renaissance Capital.

"It's really hard to tell what will happen with these markets, but if investors aren't making returns they demand better pricing," Smith said. "We're seeing a little bit of pricing sensitivity."

The average return for investors on IPOs remains high but has slipped from late in 2020. The average return reached 13.5% during the first quarter and 39.7% during the second quarter.

Special-purpose acquisition companies, or SPACs, are being hit hardest by investors' new-found sensitivity over pricing. SPACs go public with the intent of buying a private company, in effect making the purchased company a publicly-traded company without having to go through the IPO process itself.

Even with investors a bit more cautious about pricing, the IPO market is expected to remain strong through the year, though the pace will likely moderate because of a more volatile market, Smith said. □

American plans to invest in a budget airline based in Chile

By **DAVID KOENIG**
 AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines plans to invest in a Chilean budget airline and sell seats on each other's flights to help American extend its reach in South America.

American said Thursday that it has signed a letter of intent for the deal with JetSmart. American executives declined to say how much the airline proposes to invest in JetSmart other than describing it as a minority stake.

If the companies close the deal and win government approval, travelers could earn and spend American frequent-flyer points on JetSmart flights.

The airlines seem an odd fit. American has global reach and chases upscale travelers by offering better accommodations in business class. JetSmart, a so-called ultra low-cost carrier, doesn't offer business class or other amenities on its short hops around South America, and it packs more passengers than American does on similar planes.

Vasu Raja, American's chief revenue officer, said the deal would let both airlines grow profitably throughout Latin America as the travel industry recovers from the pandem-

ic. He said two-thirds of passengers on American flights to and from South America start in South America, and the deal will give them more flight options.

American's announcement was immediately denounced by the union representing its pilots, which accuses American of causing flight delays by failing to retrain pilots returning from pandemic-related leaves of absence quickly enough.

"It's curious to us why management would be so focused on other airlines while seeming to ignore our airline," said Dennis Tajer, a spokesman for the Allied Pilots Association. JetSmart was founded in 2016 and has just 20 planes, although it has 79

more on order. It serves 33 destinations in South America, mostly in Chile and Argentina. JetSmart overlaps with American in a half-dozen cities including Buenos Aires; Santiago, Chile; and Bogota, Colombia.

JetSmart is one of several low-cost carriers controlled or partly owned by U.S. private equity firm Indigo Partners.

Others include Denver-based Frontier Airlines, Mexico's Volaris and Hungary's Wizz Air.

American has struck deals in South America before. Its longtime partnership with the continent's biggest airline, Latam, collapsed in 2019 when Delta Air Lines swooped in to make a \$2 billion investment in the Chilean carrier. □



American Airlines passenger jets prepare for departure, Wednesday, July 21, 2021, near a terminal at Boston Logan International Airport, in Boston.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Monument

1 Strong Valley
winds sights

6 Can't 46 Clarinet
stand parts

11 Banded
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12 Patriot 1 "Now
Allen we've got
13 Sorceress a competi-
of myth tion!"

14 Mislead 2 To-do list

15 Wrap up 3 Anne Tyler

16 Cheep novel

18 Lyric 4 Seine

poem season

19 Easy 5 Theater

victim units

20 Steamed 6 Rooftop

state landing

21 DEA site

agent 7 Fighting

23 "Grease" 8 Anne

greaser Tyler

25 Tolkien novel

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27 Clinic 9 Canteen

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41 Ravine e.g.

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44 Staggering

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Yesterday's answer

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40						41	42		
43						44			
45						46			

7-30

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

UAQIZIWV ATDW VWDWI YWWV
DWIO FNNZ TC JQMCWVQVF
CN CAWQI WJZWIM YXC
CAWO ATDW VWDWI ETQJWZ
CN QLQCTCW CAWL STLWM
YTJZRQV

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ONE WAY TO PREVENT CONVERSATION FROM BEING BORING IS TO SAY THE WRONG THING. — FRANK SHEED



Project developers plan to build carbon capture pipelines connecting dozens of Midwestern ethanol refineries, such as this one in Chancellor, South Dakota, shown on Thursday, July 22, 2021. Corn absorbs the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, but the process of fermenting it into ethanol releases carbon dioxide emissions.

Associated Press

Carbon-capture pipelines offer climate aid; activists wary

By STEPHEN GROVES

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two companies seeking to build thousands of miles of pipeline across the Midwest are promising the effort will aid rather than hinder the fight against climate change, though some environmental groups remain skeptical.

The pipelines would stretch from North Dakota to Illinois, potentially transforming the Corn Belt into one of the world's largest corridors for a technology called carbon capture and storage.

Environmental activists and landowners have hindered other proposed pipelines in the region that pump oil, carrying carbon that was buried in the earth to engines or plants where it is burned and emitted. The new projects would essentially do the opposite by capturing carbon dioxide at ethanol refineries and transporting it to sites where it could be buried thousands of feet underground. Both companies planning the pipelines appear eager to tout their environmental benefits. Their websites feature clear blue skies and images of green fields and describe how the projects could have the same climatic impact as removing millions of cars from the road every year. However, some conservationists and landowners are already wary of the pipelines' environmental benefits and safety, raising the chances of another pitched battle as the projects seek construction permits. "It seems like they are running a casino of risk and we are going to pay for it," said Carolyn Raffensperger, the director of the Science and Environmental Health Network, expressing fears about a leak that could put North Dakota landowners like herself at risk. "We need to think this through very carefully, and I do not see the players in place to do that."

The pipelines could fall into a longstand-

ing divide among environmentalists. President Joe Biden and many Republicans are pushing a strategy for tackling climate change that offers a financial boon to industries that use carbon capture and storage to reduce their emissions. But others, such as Greenpeace and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, argue the focus should be completely on developing renewable energy sources and that carbon capture just prolongs dependence on fossil fuels.

Navigator CO2 Ventures, which is planning a pipeline that will stretch over 1,200 miles (1,931 kilometers) through Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and Illinois, says it is offering "carbon capture solutions for a greener planet." While Summit Carbon Solutions, whose pipeline will connect refineries in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota to a sequestration site in North Dakota, says it plans to build the world's largest carbon capture and storage project. Both hope to start some operations by 2024.

"There's so much societal momentum that says this is something we want to do should do, need to do for the public's benefit," said Matt Vining, the CEO of Navigator CO2 Ventures. "My project and many others will get done and should get done." Supporters say the pipelines are a much-needed win for both agricultural businesses and the environment. The two projects are expected to run into the billions of dollars, spurring construction jobs.

"All sides win. You significantly reduce carbon emissions, but you can also maintain those industries that are the lifeblood of different regions of the country," said Brad Crabtree, who oversees carbon management policy at the Great Plains Institute, a Minnesota-based organization that works with energy companies to develop environmental sustainability. □



In this Wednesday, March 31, 2021 file photo, traffic flows along Interstate 90 highway as a Metra suburban commuter train moves along an elevated track in Chicago.

Associated Press

Because of virus, survey detailing American life is cut back

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

Because of quality concerns caused by the pandemic, data from an annual Census Bureau survey that provides a wide-ranging picture of the U.S. on everything from commute times to education levels won't be released in its usual format this year, officials said Thursday.

Answers for the 2020 American Community Survey one-year estimates were collected only from 71% of the people needed in the survey because of difficulties posed by the pandemic. Those who were missed skewed toward people with lower incomes, less education and who didn't own their homes, raising the risk that survey results would be biased, said Donna Daily, chief of the American Community Survey Office.

"The COVID-19 pandemic posed numerous challenges to collecting data," Daily said. "While this is a difficult decision for us, it shows our commitment to providing high quality data."

Mailings sent out by the Census Bureau to survey participants were canceled for several months in spring 2020, and field workers who follow up at the homes of people who didn't respond also didn't

make visits during that time, census officials said. The survey polls 3.5 million people each year, asking about their jobs, income, housing costs, disabilities, marital status, Internet access, health insurance, number of vehicles owned and types of appliances they have in their homes. The American Community Survey launched in 2005 as a substitute for the census' long-form questionnaire which had been sent out to about a sixth of all U.S. households during the once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident. The long-form census ques-

tionnaire asked dozens of detailed questions about residents' social, economic and housing situations. The short form, which was basically what every U.S. household got during last year's census, asks fewer than 10 questions. The idea behind the American Community Survey one-year estimates was to give researchers and policy makers up-to-date yearly information about every place with a population of 65,000 people or more without having to wait every 10 years for the next census. □



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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
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Child Abuse Prevention
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Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



facebook.com/arubatoday/

Blues guitar legend Buddy Guy looks back on a special career

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Blues guitar legend Buddy Guy has influenced some of the greatest rock guitarists of all time, including Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and Gary Clark Jr. But the factors that led to his inspiration may not have happened if Guy hadn't taken a stand — literally. "When I came to Chicago, most blues musicians, including Muddy Waters, they all was sitting in a chair playing. And I said, 'I can't play like them, but I think I can outdo them. I can stand up and jump off the stage and get some attention,'" Guy recently told The Associated Press. Jumping around on stage, playing the guitar behind his back, and picking with his teeth brought him lots of attention, especially from an experimental guitarist from Seattle who was recently discharged from the Army named Jimi Hendrix. The future virtuoso not only reinvented the sound of the electric guitar, but he also drew on the showmanship Guy displayed.

"I'm blessed with that because I didn't know that many people would look at me and feel that way," the multi-Grammy winning Guy said.

Now the 84-year-old blues great becomes the subject of the latest installment of the PBS biography series "American Mas-



Buddy Guy poses for a portrait to promote the latest installment of the PBS biography series, "American Masters" on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at his blues club Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago.

ters." The episode, "Buddy Guy: The Blues Chase the Blues Away," dives into his lengthy career.

Honored and humble about being recognized, Guy says he saw his contemporaries as better guitarists, so he had to find his own style. That came from being inspired by different types of music, ranging from gospel to country — a mix he equates to a Louisiana culinary specialty.

"You can call my guitar playing gumbo, because if you cook a gumbo in Louisiana, you throw every kind of meat you can. And that makes it more delicious

than what it was if you just put one meat in it," he says. Yet, all of the styles he put into his playing required extreme perseverance. Growing up in the Jim Crow era South and raised in a sharecropping family, Guy became fascinated the first time he saw someone play guitar. But actually having one to put in his hands and play created an obstacle he needed to overcome. He would try and make his own, including using rubber bands as strings, before increasing his ingenuity to the wire strands from the window screens in the family home. But the ever-

dwindling screens came to the attention of his mother. "My mom noticed mosquitoes in the house because something was wrong with the windows."

He recalls getting his hands on a real guitar during a Christmas celebration when its player took a break to get drunk, providing Guy with some time to figure out how to play what he had seen. His dad eventually bought him a guitar for "a couple of dollars" and he never looked back. But mastering the instrument was one thing, finding an audience was another. By the time Guy came

on the scene, the blues were a struggling art form. There was nothing lucrative about playing music in those days because there wasn't a crossover to a mainstream audience.

At the time, he says white audiences didn't have an appetite for the blues, with a few turning up at shows every "once in a while."

"Nobody was making a decent living off of playing the blues," he says. "It was going from town to town." Sometime he said he just made enough money to make it to the next town.

It was the love of music that kept him and his counterparts playing. But that would soon change in the 1960s with the arrival of a new sound on the airwaves. "The British," Guy said succinctly.

More appropriately, he credits the Rolling Stones, whose guitarist Keith Richards and singer Mick Jagger especially admired Guy's playing and the blues in general.

When the TV variety show "Shindig!" wanted the Stones to appear, Jagger had one condition. "Jagger said I'll come on the show if you let me bring Muddy Waters. And they say, 'Who in the hell is that?' And he said, 'You mean to tell me you don't know who Muddy Waters is? We named ourselves after his famous record, 'Rolling Stone.'"

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Scarlett Johansson arrives at the Bafta Film Awards, in central London, Feb. 2 2020.

By LINDSEY BAHR and
ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

Scarlett Johansson is suing the Walt Disney Co. over

its streaming release of "Black Widow," which she said breached her contract and deprived her of potential earnings.

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Scarlett Johansson sues Disney over 'Black Widow' release

In a lawsuit filed Thursday morning in Los Angeles Superior Court, the "Black Widow" star and executive producer said her contract guaranteed an exclusive theatrical release. The Wall Street Journal first reported the news of the lawsuit.

Johansson's potential earnings were tied to the box office performance of the film, which the company released simultaneously in theaters and on its streaming service Disney+ for a \$30 rental.

"In the months leading up to this lawsuit, Ms. Johansson gave Disney and Marvel every opportunity to right their wrong and make good on Marvel's promise," the lawsuit said. "Disney intentionally induced Marvel's breach of the Agreement, without justification, in order to prevent Ms. Johansson from realizing the full benefit of her bargain with Marvel."

Disney did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

After its release was de-

layed more than a year because of COVID-19, "Black Widow" debuted to a pandemic-best of \$80 million in North America and \$78 million from international theaters three weeks ago, but theatrical grosses declined sharply after that. In its second weekend in release, the National Association of Theater Owners issued a rare statement criticizing the strategy asserting that simultaneous release lends itself only to lost profits and higher quality piracy.

WFT president says list of names substantially narrowed down

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Sports Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) —

Washington Football President Jason Wright said Thursday the organization has significantly trimmed the list of potential team names, with the unveiling expected before the 2022 NFL draft.

In an interview with The Associated Press at a community event coinciding with training camp in Virginia's capital, Wright said Washington is trying to be transparent with the re-branding process. He declined to reveal how many names were still under consideration.

"We have them narrowed down substantially," Wright told The AP. "So, there's a small set of names that have been crafted into full visuals and logos and all that stuff that we're going back and forth on."

The Washington Football Team is the official name for a second consecutive season after the club abandoned its old moniker in July 2020. Wright, who was hired in August, has said the new name will not have any Native American connotations or imagery. Wright has blogged about choosing a name that honors the franchise's history, which includes three Super



Washington Football Team fans watch drills during NFL football practice in Richmond, Va., Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

Bowl titles. Asked directly if a name had already been selected, he said, "I don't want to scoop our team." "It's like a family heirloom and stewarding the movement of family heirloom is a weighty thing," he told Washington radio station WTOP on Thursday. "It's incredibly important we do the best we can to steward this right."

Long before Major League Baseball's Cleveland Indians abruptly announced on Twitter last week that they are becoming the

Guardians, Washington has been focused on transparency as part of the process so that fans can understand how the final decision was reached. More than 25,000 names were submitted, with alumni, season-ticket holders, women, military members and children among the digital focus groups the team canvassed for opinions.

"We want it to be as open as it can possibly be," Wright said. "We got a ton of input from fans over all the different stages of this

process and continue to. We want people to be able to see where their input and where their fingerprints are on the entire process." Washington is working with creative agency Code & Theory to rebrand an organization that recently underwent an independent investigation into workplace conduct and is in the midst of a culture change from the top down. Tanya Snyder has taken over day-to-day operation of the organization for the next several months, with husband

Associated Press

Dan focusing on a new stadium deal and other business ventures.

MORE ON COVID LIST

Washington defensive lineman Matt Ioannidis, wide receiver Curtis Samuel, and cornerback Chris Miller joined offensive tackle Cornelius Lucas on the COVID-19 reserve list. Washington is the least-vaccinated team in the NFL at roughly 60%. Reigning AP Defensive Rookie of the Year Chase Young wore a mask when speaking with reporters Thursday after a training camp practice, which is required for unvaccinated players, and would not give his status.

"I'm not going to disclose my personal information," Young said. "I hope you all can respect that, but I respect everybody's decision. What I'm going to do — I'm just going to make sure the protocols that the NFL and NFLPA guidelines they put together, I'm just going to make sure me and my teammates follow that the best we can."

Coach Ron Rivera, who is immune deficient after undergoing treatments for a form of skin cancer last year, said he is wearing a mask around unvaccinated players. Quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick on Thursday said he is vaccinated. □

F1 champs Hamilton & Vettel concerned by LGBT law referendum

By **JEROME PUGMIRE**

AP Auto Racing Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) —

Formula One world champions Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel have spoken out against the Hungarian government's planned LGBT law referendum.

Hungary's government wants a national referendum to showcase public support for a new law that the European Union says discriminates against LGBT people. The government says the law aims to protect children, but many have criticized it as an attack on LGBT rights.

The seven-time F1 champion Hamilton, who is chasing a record-extending 100th grand prix win this weekend, made his opposition known on social media.

"Ahead of the Grand Prix this weekend, I wish to share my support for those affected by the government's anti-LGBTQ+ law. It is unacceptable, cowardly and misleading for those in power to suggest such a law," Hamilton wrote on Instagram.

"Everyone deserves to have the freedom to be themselves, no matter who they love or how they

identify. I urge the people of Hungary to vote in the upcoming referendum to protect the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, they need our support more than ever." The four-time F1 champion Vettel spoke out on Thursday at the Hungarian GP.

"I find it embarrassing for the country," said Vettel, who is third all-time in F1 history with 53 race wins. "I can't understand why they (the government) are struggling to see why everybody should be free to do what they like."

The law passed last month by Hungary's parliament



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain arrives at the Hungaroring racetrack in Mogyorod, Hungary, Thursday, July 29, 2021.

Associated Press

bans the depiction of homosexuality or gender reassignment to minors in school education programs and media content. Its passage set off a heated confrontation

between Orban's right-wing government and the 27-member EU, which argued it discriminates against LGBT people and contravenes the bloc's fundamental values. □

Big day for Dressel, Chinese in pool, Lee in gymnastics

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Caeleb Dressel got his first individual gold medal, the Chinese women put together a record-setting relay and American Sunisa Lee won the women's all-around gymnastics gold.

After the biggest action of the day session on Day 6 of the Tokyo Olympics came at the pool, Lee shined at night in gymnastics with teammate Simone Biles watching from the stands. Lee became the fifth straight American woman to claim the Olympic title in the women's all-around. She edged Rebeca Andrade of Brazil in an entertaining and hotly contested final. Lee's total of 57.433 points was just enough to top Andrade. The Brazilian earned the first gymnastics all-around medal by a Latin American athlete but missed out on gold when she stepped out of bounds twice during her floor routine. Russian gymnast Angelina Melnikova earned bronze two days after leading ROC to gold in the team final. Dressel, America's successor to Michael Phelps, won

the 100-meter freestyle in an Olympic record of 47.02 seconds — a mere six-hundredths ahead of defending champion Kyle Chalmers of Australia. That gave him a fourth career gold medal, with three previous ones coming in relays.

"It is a lot different. I guess I thought it would be, I just didn't want to admit to it," he said. "It's a lot tougher. You have to rely on yourself, there's no one to bail you out."

The most dramatic race of the day came when China surprised the U.S. and Australia with a world-record performance in the women's 4x200-meter freestyle relay.

Katie Ledecky took the anchor leg for the Americans in third place, nearly 2 seconds behind the Chinese and also trailing the Aussies. Ledecky passed Australia's Leah Neale and closed the gap significant on China's Li Bingjie, but couldn't quite catch her at the end.

Li touched in a world-record 7 minutes, 40.33 seconds. She also set an Olympic record in winning the 200-meter butterfly before the relay.

"I didn't know I was doing it

until I'd finished the 200 butterfly and our coach told me, 'You're in the relay,'" she said through an interpreter. "I didn't even know how to swim the 200 free, although I have the training qualities and levels for the 200 distances."

The Americans claimed silver in 7:40.73, while Australia took the bronze in 7:41.29. All three medalists broke the previous world record of 7:41.50 set by the Aussies at the 2019 world championships.

GOLDEN SLAM

Novak Djokovic is into the medal rounds of the Olympic tennis tournament.

The top-ranked Serb rolled past home favorite Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-2, 6-0 to reach the semifinals and extend his bid for a Golden Slam.

Steffi Graf in 1988 is the only tennis player to achieve the Golden Slam by winning all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic gold in the same calendar year. Djokovic has already won the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon this year and needs the Tokyo Games title and the U.S. Open trophy to complete the Golden Slam.

In the women's tournament, 12th-ranked Belinda Bencic of Switzerland and 2019 French Open finalist Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic will meet in the gold-medal match.

Bencic beat Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-3 and Vondrousova — who eliminated Naomi Osaka in the third round — defeated fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina of Ukraine 6-3, 6-1.

TEERING OFF

Sepp Straka of Austria made four birdies in his last six holes for an 8-under 63 for a one-shot lead over Jazz Janewattananond of Thailand in the first round of men's golf.

Thomas Pieters of Belgium, who finished one spot out of a bronze medal in Rio de Janeiro five years ago, shot 30 on the back nine for a 65.

Carlos Ortiz of Mexico also had a 65 in ideal scoring conditions on a course so pristine it didn't have a divot when players first began arriving because it was closed for two months.

KNOCKED OUT

American world champion pole vaulter Sam Kendricks

will miss the Olympics after testing positive for COVID-19.

Kendricks' dad posted on social media that his son had no symptoms but was informed while in Tokyo that he tested positive and was out of the competition. The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee confirmed the news and said Kendricks has been placed in isolation at a hotel.

Kendricks won the bronze medal at the 2016 Olympics and took gold at the past two world championships. He holds the American record at 19 feet, 10½ inches (6.06 meters).

Shortly after Kendricks' positive test was announced, another pole vaulter, Germán Chiaraviglio of Argentina, said he, too, was out because of a positive test.

HOMETOWN HOOPS

Japan's bid for its first Olympic men's basketball win in 45 years fell short despite a 34-point effort from Rui Hachimura.

Luka Doncic had another impressive performance with 25 points, seven rebounds and seven assists in 26 minutes. Zoran Dragic scored 24 points and Slovenia remained unbeaten in its Olympic debut by beating Japan 116-81 in the Tokyo Games.

QUICK WORK

American beach volleyball players Kelly Claes and Sarah Sponcil dispatched Kenya in just 25 minutes, the fastest women's match since the Olympics adopted their current format.

The U.S. pair beat Brackides Khadambi and Gaudencia Makokha 21-8, 21-6 to improve to 2-0 and almost certainly clinch a spot in the knockout round of 16.

The match was the fastest since the international volleyball federation adopted the rally scoring and best-of-three sets format in 2002. Americans Phil Dalhausser and Nick Lucena also won, beating Julian Azaad and Nicolas Capogrosso of Argentina 21-19, 18-21, 15-6 to improve to 2-1 in the round robin. That's good for at least one more match in Tokyo. □



Sunisa Lee, of United States, reacts as she poses for a picture after winning the gold medal in the artistic gymnastics women's all-around final at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Thursday, July 29, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.

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